The StARS – Student Arts & Research Symposium was held on April 12th and 13th, 2012. This was the first year that the symposium included students from the Social and Natural Sciences, Art, Music, Theatre, and the Humanities, with approximately 100 students participating in events. A poetry slam and play reading kicked off the symposium on Thursday evening. On Friday, students gave oral and poster presentations, exhibited their artwork, and gave musical performances. Dr. Cynthia Fisher, Professor of Psychology at UIUC, gave the keynote address about her research into how young children learn language. Author, Bonnie Jo Campbell, gave the Holtz Lecture with readings from several of her short stories and poems.

Thirteen current and former psychology majors participated in the symposium. Wesley Hill gave an oral presentation titled, College Students’ Self-perception and Behavior Problems: A Person Oriented Approach that won the Best Social Science Oral Presentation Award. Wesley’s faculty mentor was Dr. Karen Mooney. There were eight poster presentations (listed on page 2). Rachel Tohme and Kaitlin Easton won the Best Social Science Poster Presentation Award and their faculty mentors were Drs. Carrie Switzer and Frances Shen. The Psychology Department faculty members want to congratulate all of the students who participated in the symposium this year. We are very proud of the hard work that each person put into his or her project.
Poster Presentations

1. “Delayed Disengagement and Speeded Orienting Are Differentially Effected by Exposure Duration”
   Kristoffer Barrington, Andrew Hathaway & Dr. Karen (Reinke) Pressley (Mentor)

2. “The Quality of Traditional and Nontraditional College Students’ Romantic Relationships”
   Julia Capestrain & Dr. Karen Mooney (Mentor)

3. “Attitudes and Perceptions of Undergraduate Psychology Students Toward Psychiatry and Mental Health Professionals.”
   Joel A.S. Dukett, Dr. Kristina Dzara, Dr. Frances C. Shen (Mentors) & Dr. Gaurav Jain

   Jodi Fishburn & Dr. Shuang-Yueh Pui (Mentor)

   Rebecca Goldsborough & Dr. Frances Shen (Mentor)

   Martha Rubio & Dr. Shuang-Yueh Pui (Mentor)

7. “Racial/Ethnic Differences in Academic Self-Efficacy and Motivation to Attend College”
   Rachel Tohme, Kaitlin Easton, Dr. Carrie Switzer & Dr. Frances Shen (Mentors)

   Stacey Windisch, Lucy Parker, Andrew Hathaway, Robert Torrence & Dr. Frances Shen (Mentor)
### Officers

**Psychology Club**  
President: Rachel Tohme  
Psi Chi President: Sarah Moore  
Vice President: Darci Dixon-Primm  
Secretary: Stacey Davis  
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Karen Mooney

### New Psi Chi Inductees

Fourteen students were inducted into Psi Chi in Spring 2012. The induction dinner was held on March 2, 2012 at Mario’s Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria.

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<thead>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Libby Bair</td>
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<td>Brittany Burkes</td>
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<td>Joel Dukett</td>
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<td>Michael Eagle-Wolfe</td>
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<td>Gerard Emery</td>
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<td>Zoe Healy</td>
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<td>Bill Lilly</td>
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<td>Tammie Lomprez</td>
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<td>Meagan McChristy</td>
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<td>Eric Stone</td>
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<td>Robert Torrence</td>
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<td>Katie Woelfel</td>
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Congratulations to the new inductees!

Psychology Club and Psi Chi worked together to hold a Bowling Fundraiser (January 27) and an extremely successful Valentine’s Day bake sale to raise money to purchase food for the Washington Street Mission Breakfast. On March 31 they cooked and served a hot breakfast to approximately 200 people.

They had another bake sale on April 16 to raise money for Walk a Mile in Her Shoes (April 21), which in turn benefits the Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault. There was a good turnout by psychology students, faculty, and staff.

Last year’s Psychology Club t-shirts sold so well that they decided to create a new design for this year, featuring zombies. The shirts were sold for $10 each. The money raised from the t-shirt sales was used to help twelve psychology students attend the Midwestern Psychological Association’s annual conference in Chicago (May 3-5). The students attending were Brian Arterbridge, Kristoffer Barrington, Julia Capestrain, Gerard Emery, April Fountain, Wesley Hill, Nicole Landreth, Tammie Lomprez, Sarah Moore, Carmen Rivera, Brittany Sievers, and Rachel Tohme. Julia Capestrain presented her poster on the quality of romantic relationships for traditional and nontraditional students at this conference.
Karen Mooney

Dr. Karen Mooney studies the relationship networks of adolescents and college students. Relationship networks are defined as all of the close relationships in which an individual participates. For most adolescents and college students, this includes relationships with mothers, fathers, friends, and romantic partners. Dr. Mooney recently had an article on relationship networks published in the *Encyclopedia of Adolescence*.

Dr. Mooney is currently working with Julia Capestrain and Wesley Hill on a project that examines how college students’ relationships are associated with individual adjustment (self-concept, academic performance, and various characteristics and behaviors). They will be presenting some of their initial findings at the Association for Psychological Science’s 24th Annual Convention in Chicago in May 2012.

Julia and Wes have also used this dataset to test their own hypotheses. Julia examined differences in the quality of romantic relationships for traditional and nontraditional students. She presented her findings at the UIS StARS Symposium and the Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association in Chicago in May 2012. Julia won a Travel Award from Psi Chi’s Midwestern Regional Steering Committee to attend the conference.

Wes looked at the relation between students’ patterns of self-perception and behavior problems. He presented his findings at the UIS StARS Symposium (winning first place for Social Sciences Oral Presentation) and the ILOWA 39th Annual Undergraduate Psychology Conference at Eureka College.

Karen Pressley

Dr. Karen Pressley’s research interests focus on how emotional stimuli, such as fearful faces can affect attention, and what is going on in the brain when attention is modulated. Certain types of stimuli can grab our attention automatically, in particular faces expressing emotion. In conjunction with Kristoffer Barrington and Andrew Hathaway, Dr. Pressley is currently conducting a research project that examines differences in the type of attention effects based on the duration of an emotional stimulus. Preliminary data were presented at the UIS StARS conference in April 2012.

In addition, Andrew Hathaway was awarded the CLAS Student-Faculty Creative Activities award for the research he plans to conduct next year entitled: *The Modulation of Spatial Attention with Emotional Stimuli in Males Versus Females*.

Finally, Dr. Pressley recently published a journal article entitled *Nonconscious Attention Bias to Threat is Correlated with Anterior Cingulate Cortex Gray Matter Volume: A Vodel-Based Morphometry Result and Replication* in the *Neuroimage*.

Shuang-Yueh Pui

Dr. Shuang-Yueh Pui is currently working on two research projects. The first research project examines the effect of choice set size (large or small) on whether people choose to defer their choice among indecisives and decisives. Dr. Pui and Martha Rubio analyzed the data and presented the results of the study at the UIS StARS Symposium in April 2012.

The second research project examines the unhealthy behavior outcomes of the interaction between school and work domains among college students. This study will employ a cross-sectional design to examine the impact of work-school conflict on unhealthy eating and exercise behaviors. Jodi Fishburn has been actively involved in analyzing the data and results were presented at the UIS StARS Symposium in April 2012.

One of Dr. Pui’s manuscripts was recently accepted for publication and is in press with the Journal of Business and Psychology. The title of this article is: *A comparison of a subjective and statistical method for establishing score comparability in an organizational culture survey*. Dr. Pui will also be presenting two symposia at the annual Society for Industrial-Organizational Psychology conference in April 2012 in San Diego, CA. Dr. Pui is co-chair and presenter in the first symposium, entitled: *Being Rude Can Be Expensive: Exploring the Incivility – Performance Relationship*. Dr. Pui is a presenter in the second symposium entitled: *Does Cyber Incivility Add Distress Beyond Face-to-Face Incivility?* Finally, Dr. Pui will be presenting with Dr. Jorge Villegas (faculty in UIS Department of Business Administration) at the annual American Psychological Association conference in August 2012 in Orlando, FL on a study entitled: *Do numbers make people risk-averse?*
Sheryl Reminger

Dr. Sheryl Reminger recently completed a collaborative study with colleagues from the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. The study examined fatigue, inflammation, and cognitive function in individuals with breast and endometrial cancer. Data collection for the study was completed in the spring semester, and Dr. Reminger will be conducting data analyses in the summer to determine if patients’ self-reported function and inflammation-related serum markers are predictive of cognitive performance.

In addition, Cassandra David has been working with Dr. Sheryl Reminger and Dr. David Towers to design a research study that will use eyetracking equipment to study how people respond to emotional stimuli. The eyetracking equipment can be used to study both the position of a person’s gaze when the person looks at emotional visual images, and it can also measure pupil dilation when a person listens to emotional sounds. The information provided by the eyetracker can be used to better understand how people process emotional information and how these processes impact behavior. During the spring 2012 semester, Cassandra investigated how eyetracking has been used in studies of individuals who experience social anxiety, and she was invaluable in her help setting up the eyetracking and experimental equipment. She will continue to assist with the project during the summer.

Frances Shen

Dr. Frances Shen is currently working on four different research projects. The first examines the impact of parental pressure and support, educational channeling, and internalized stereotyping on the career development of Asian American college students. This research project is funded by the UIS CLAS Faculty Enhancement Scholarship Grant. Lucy Parker, Stacey Windisch, Andrew Hathaway, and Robert Torrence have been assisting Dr. Shen with data collection since Fall 2011. Findings were presented at the UIS StARS Symposium in April 2012 and will also be presented at the annual APA Convention in Orlando, FL in August 2012.

The second research project examines the impact of discrimination, social support, adherence to traditional Asian values, and perceived parental attitudes towards homosexuality on the development of internalized homonegativity and poor psychological well-being among Asian American lesbian, gay, and bisexual persons. Rebecca Goldsborough has been collaborating with Dr. Shen on this project. They were awarded the UIS CLAS Student-Faculty Creative Activities funding and the UIS Summer Competitive Grant for this project. Rebecca and Dr. Shen presented their preliminary findings at the UIS StARS Symposium in April 2012 and will also be presenting at the annual Asian American Psychological Association Convention in Orlando, FL in August 2012.

The last two projects are qualitative studies that examine the impact of stereotyping on Asian American college students. The first study focuses on the impact of stereotyping and discrimination experiences among Asian American students, and its impact on their identity development. The second study focuses on the impact of academic and career-oriented stereotyping messages on the career development among Asian American college students. Numerous UIS students have been involved in the transcriptions of these qualitative interviews. For the first study, Dr. Shen, Dr. Shuang-Yueh Pui and Dr. Juanita Ortiz (faculty in Department of Criminal Justice) are currently analyzing the data for this study. For the second study, Dr. Shen and Rebecca Goldsborough are currently analyzing the data.

Carrie Switzer

Kayla Weitekamp has been working with Dr. Carrie Switzer on the Educational Aspirations study this semester. This study examines the differences between traditional and nontraditional aged college students in their motivation to go to college, the perceived barriers to attending college and their academic self-efficacy in college. Kayla has been administering the study questionnaires and entering the data that has been collected into a statistical database.

Rachel Tohme and Kaitlin Easton have been working on an additional phase of the study that is focused on collecting information from students from underrepresented groups. They presented their findings about racial/ethnic differences among college students in terms of their academic self-efficacy and motivation to attend college at the UIS StARS Symposium in April 2012 and they won the best Social Science Poster Award.
Four Psychology students presented their senior honors projects at the Capital Scholars Senior Honors Symposium on April 20, 2012: Libby Bair, Kristina Frazier, Elyse Hendricks, and Meredith Quarello.

All four students will be graduating from the Capital Scholars Honors Program this year. Congratulations!

“The Mary Tyler Moore Show: Changes in American Sitcoms and Changes in American Attitudes”
By Libby Bair

“Let Me Play with Your Emotions”
By Kristina Frazier

“Autism Spectrum Disorders and Their Effects on Socialization in School”
By Elyse Hendricks

“Disney: Not the Perfect Fairytale After All”
By Meredith Quarello
In May 2012, the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences will host the eighth annual reception for its graduating seniors. Students and faculty will be able to share stories and say good-bye one final time before the graduation ceremony. During the ceremony, various departments will present awards to their outstanding graduates. In the Psychology Department, the following awards will be given to our graduating seniors:

**Rachel Tohme** will be the *Psychology Department Student Marshal* for the 2012 graduation ceremony. This honor is given to a graduating senior who best exemplifies the goals and spirit of the department. At the graduation ceremony, the student marshal leads the other psychology graduates through the procession and the presentation of their diplomas.

**Joel Dukett** will receive the *Outstanding Psychology Student Scholar* award for his excellence in academic performance and conducting his own independent research project.

**Katie Easton, Rachel Tohme, & Wesley Hill** will receive the *Outstanding Research Projects* award for their active involvement in and contribution towards faculty research projects.

**Nicole Landreth** will receive the *Outstanding Service to the Psychology Department* award for her active leadership in Psi Chi and the Psychology Club.

**Millicent Schussele & Wendy Turner** will receive the *Outstanding Psychology Senior Seminar Portfolio* award for creating exceptional portfolios in the Senior Seminar capstone course.

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**Where Are They Headed?**

The following are where some of our graduating senior psychology students are headed next year:

**Jami Braner** will be attending the master’s program in Criminology at the Adler School of Professional Psychology in Chicago.

**Julia Capestrain** will be joining the Peace Corps.

**Katie Easton** will be attending the master’s program in Community Counseling at Saint Louis University.

**Gerald Everette** will be attending the master’s program in Clinical Counseling at the University of Northern Colorado.

**Rebecca Goldsborough** will be attending the master’s program in Human Development Counseling at UIS.

**Brett Kuykendall** will be attending the PsyD program in Clinical Psychology at the Florida Institute for Technology.

**Martha N. Rubio** will be working as an Assistant Coordinator for the Illinois Department of Public Health.

**Adam Tucker** will be attending the Chicago School of Professional School of Psychology.

*Congratulations to all our graduating senior psychology students, and best of luck on your future endeavors!!!*